

JPW

Serial No.: 10/726,685



--1--

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
Keisuke Ban, et al.

Docket No. 02410265D1

Serial No.: 10/726,685

Group Art Unit: No. 1725

Filed: December 4, 2003

Examiner: Kuang Y. Lin

For: **CASTING METHOD AND CASTING APPARATUS**

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 4, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Applicants believe that no extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required at this time. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 23-1951.